



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

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IMPERIAL COUNTY REPORTS FIRST COVID-19 RELATED DEATH

The Imperial County Public Health Department announced today that an Imperial County resident has died due to complications of COVID-19. This represents the first COVID-19 related death for Imperial County. The individual, an elderly adult with underlying health conditions, was recently diagnosed and was being treated in a San Diego hospital. Preliminary understanding from the contact investigation is that this patient had minimal local community exposure and spent time in residences in both Imperial County and near Mexicali, Baja California. To date, there have been 43 positive COVID-19 cases in Imperial County, six of whom have recovered and are no longer in isolation.

“My heartfelt condolences go out to the individual’s family and friends during this difficult time,” said Imperial County Health Officer, Stephen Munday. “Any loss of life is tragic, but this is particularly sobering. While most cases of COVID-19 exhibit mild or moderate symptoms, this tragic death underscores the urgent need for everyone to practice, without fail, the orders that have been outlined in the local and State Health Officer orders. These orders are not only intended to slow the spread of illness for everyone in our community but are designed to protect residents who are particularly vulnerable to developing more serious illness, including elderly persons and those with underlying health conditions.”

All residents in Imperial County are strongly encouraged to:

- Stay at home. Limit trips out only for essential tasks (e.g., grocery shopping, medication pick-up, reporting to work if you are designated an essential employee).
- Practice social and physical distancing by staying at least six feet away from others to lessen the chances of getting sick.
- Those at higher risk are encouraged to arrange for someone to deliver groceries and other needed items and try to maintain least a two-week supply of medication on hand.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially before eating or before touching your face.
- Avoid being around sick people.

The Imperial County Public Health Department is currently exploring ways (i.e., dashboards) to provide more information in order for residents to make informed decisions for themselves and their loved ones. While we do anticipate soon being able to provide additional details related to COVID-19 in our community, we would still like to emphasize that all residents, regardless of where they are located in Imperial County should assume that they have been exposed to the virus and continue to take the necessary precautions.

For general questions or information about COVID-19 and precautions currently recommended by Imperial County Public Health Department, residents may call the county's information line at 442-265-6700 or access its website at www.icphd.org.

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